

down the criminal code. Well again for the record, last Friday we dealt with prostitution; we dealt with pandering. Currently, there is no statute dealing with prostitution. We created one with LB 38. Last Friday this body doubled the penalty for pandering. It's up to 20 years now. We're not watering down the criminal code. These are some of the concerns that some people have voiced because of our actions on Friday. We're not watering it down. A lot of people have put in a lot of years work on this. I'm just trying to clear up this misconception that some people have. I would hope that the body would oppose the Venditte kill motion so that we can go on, go all the way through the code. We still have some time next session to come in and revamp the code, bring in any amendments which we didn't catch this time before the law goes into effect. I would urge the body to vote against the Venditte motion. Thank you.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm not rising in support of or in opposition to, at this point, Senator Venditte's motion. I am rising to bring a little bit of information that I think that we are continually overlooking. First of all, we had an interim committee that has spent endless hours of time. We've had people over the State of Nebraska knowledgeable in the criminal code area with input. Some of them, I'm sure, would be questioned as to their knowledge. Others are rated quite highly, but that is on an individual basis entirely. We also must recognize that our present committee that did put the bill to the floor of the Legislature really had no choice, as far as I am concerned, on the recommendation of the previous committee. I think even though I'm sure most of us on the present committee had questions and concerns and particularly with the length of the revision, we're really wondering what it was all about. I think that our committee, as you will notice in the report, only put on eight amendments. During the course of the hearings and I want to mention here too, that we had three days of hearings open to the public. During those three days, we had four people that testified in support of the criminal code. We had seven other people that appeared neither for or against but only offered information to the committee. I think in addition to this, I must tell you that I did not rely on my judgement alone to try and arrive at a decision. I've contacted people in my district both in the legal profession and those in the citizenry and I find about an equal distribution in response to those inquiries. From the legal profession I can understand the opposition. I'm sure that they are going to have to go back to school to some degree to learn what we have passed if we pass it. I don't know that that is all bad. I'm not sure that it's all good. Some of the reports I've gotten are, don't do it all at once. Let's take one problem at a time. Maybe that is the proper procedure rather than trying to do it all at once. I don't know. These are some of the facts. I appreciate having been a committee chairman. The position that our present chairman is in, he is trying desperately to help those of us and others on the floor who are concerned and would like to make some changes to work them in. I believe that when any bill, whether it's this one or any other one, reaches the floor of this Legislature it is vulnerable to any improvements or additions or deletions and I think that's the position we find ourselves in at this time. It's the right of every one of us to perform that which we believe to be right. Thank you Mr. President.